Journey to the Falls Classroom Activity: Geography



A Waterfall on the Move

Part 3: Map the River in the Twin Cities

Objective: Students will create a map of the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities. Students will draw in the location of bridges, historical, cultural, and recreational sites. Students will label creeks, islands and waterfalls. Students will create and add a scale and compass rose.

Grade Level: Grades 4-6

Time required: 30-60 minutes depending on the amount of detail included on the map.

Materials: Blank map of the Mississippi River through the Twin Cities, assorted maps,

color pencils

Standards:

History and Social Studies-

Geography B- Maps and Globes- The student will make and use maps to acquire, process, and report on the spatial organization of people and places on Earth. Geography C-. Physical Features and Processes- The student will identify and locate geographic features associated with the development of Minnesota. Geography D- Interconnections-

The student will identify and locate major physical and cultural features that played an important role in the history of Minnesota.

The student will give examples that demonstrate how people are connected to each other and the environment.

Resources for Teachers/Students: Some maps are included in the Journey to the Falls Teacher Guide including:

- DNR Canoe and Boating Guide- Anoka to Fort Snelling to Hastings (Maps 8 and 9)
- Padelford Packet Boat Co.- Historic Mississippi River- Minneapolis
- Audubon- Great River Birding Trail- Map 4, Twin Cities Area
- Minneapolis Riverfront District Map
- Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Map

On-line maps:

The city of Minneapolis provides a variety of maps at its website. This link includes walking trails and bridge crossings.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/about/maps/GBSTrails24x36.pdf

The "Dakota Presence in the River Valley" map by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community shows the historical presence of the Dakota in the Minnesota and Mississippi river valleys. http://www.ccsmdc.org/crp/dak_pres.html

Maps On-line:

http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/chouse/land_use_historic.html This site, from the Land Management Information Center (LMIC), is a "first stop" source for maps of MN.

<u>http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/index.html</u> This Department of Natural Resources site includes links to many map resources.

Journey to the Falls Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, 2009

Journey to the Falls Classroom Activity: Geography



A Waterfall on the Move Part 3: Map the River in the Twin Cities

Instructions for students: Use the map template "Mississippi River: Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota" and other maps and resources (including National Park Service brochure) to create your own map of the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities.

- 1. Complete the **compass rose** beneath the map title by writing "N" for north, "S" for south, "E" for east, and "W" for west. In the lower part of the page, draw a line with numbered division marks to create a "**scale of miles**" to measure distances on the map. (1 mile = approximately 1½ inches on the map)
- 2. Locate and label downtown **Minneapolis** and downtown **St. Paul** on your map.
- 3. Locate and label the **Minnesota River** and **Minnehaha Creek** on your map. Draw a line across Minnehaha Creek where **Minnehaha Falls** is, and label it. Color rivers, lakes and streams light blue.
- 4. Locate and label **Nicollet Island**, **Pike Island**, **and Boom Island Park**. Color them light green.
- 5. Use city maps to locate where the **Interstate 94**, **Interstate 35W**, and **Interstate 35E** highways cross the river, and draw the bridges onto your map.
- 6. Locate and draw the **Broadway Ave., Hennepin Ave. bridge**, **Washington Ave. bridge**, and the **Lake St. bridge** on your map. Optional bridges: Franklin Ave., Ford, and Smith Ave.
- 7. Locate, draw in, and label present-day St. Anthony Falls.
- 8. Using the "Journey of a Waterfall" map (see teacher), indicate the locations and dates of **historic St. Anthony Falls** from its beginning as "River Warren Falls" (in St. Paul) to its present site in Minneapolis.
- 9. Locate and label the sites for the **Bohemian Flats**, **University of Minnesota**, **Lock & Dam** #1, and **Historic Fort Snelling**.
- 10. Draw a line across the river where **Lock and Dam #1 ("Ford Dam")** is located; label it. Optional: Label **"Meeker Island Lock & Dam,"** the historic site of the first lock and dam on the Mississippi River located just upstream from Lake Street.
- 11. If **your school** and/or **your home** can be located on the map, mark them with a red star (school) and a blue star (home), and label them "school" and "home."
- 12. Locate and label at least **four more historic or modern river sites**. Possibilities include railroad bridges, historic mills, Mississippi River Gorge, Crosby Lake, Indian Mounds Park, Fountain Cave, Carver's Cave, Kaposia, Fort Snelling State Park, Minnehaha Park, Mill Ruins Park, boat access sites and canoe campsites.
- 13. Use a National Park map (or others) to find "**river miles**." (River miles, used for navigation, indicate the number of miles upstream from the Ohio River; on your map these numbers will be from 835 to 855.) Indicate them on your map for every 5 miles.
- 14. Optional: Make a "**map key**" that identifies different colors used for rivers & lakes, islands, historic sites, and roads & bridges. Decorate and color the map accordingly.



